

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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64
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /071 W
----- 069650

R 051245Z MAY 76
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9725
INFO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

CONFIDENTIAL GENEVA 3437

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, ICRC, UY
SUBJECT: ICRC ACTIVITIES IN URUGUAY

1. ICRC GENERAL DELEGATE FOR LATIN AMERICA AND ASIA SERGE NESSI MAY 3 DISCUSSED ICRC ACTIVITIES IN URUGUAY WITH DEPT DEPUTY COORDINATOR FOR HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS FRANK SIEVERTS (IN GENEVA FOR DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCE ON HUMANITARIAN LAW IN ARMED CONFLICTS).

2. NESSI WAS DISAPPOINTED TO REPORT THAT, ALTHOUGH THE ICRC RECENTLY RECEIVED ASSURANCE FROM URUGUAYAN AUTHORITIES THAT IT COULD VISIT POLITICAL DETAINEES, IT NOW APPEARED THAT THE VISITS WOULD BE SO RESTRICTED AS TO MAKE THEM PRACTICALLY WORTHLESS.

3. THE URUGUAYAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES HAD ALREADY ALLOWED SOME VISITS TO TAKE PLACE, BUT THE ICRC WAS NOT GIVEN THE NAMES OF THE PRISONERS BEING VISITED, NOR WAS THERE ANY OPPORTUNITY FOR INTERVIEWS WITHOUT WITNESSES. NOT HAVING NAMES MEANT ICRC WAS NOT ABLE TO BRING FAMILY MESSAGES TO OR FROM THE PRISONERS, AND LACK OF PRIVATE INTERVIEWS OF COURSE DEFLECTS BASIC ICRC AIM OF GIVING PRISONERS A CHANCE TO SPEAK FRANKLY. ICRC WAS ALSO REFUSED PERMISSION TO BRING FOOD AND MEDICAL ITEMS TO THE PRISONERS.

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4. NESSI SAID URUGUAYAN MILITARY AUTHORITIES ARE AS BENIGHTED A GROUP AS HE HAS EVER DEALT WITH ON THESE ISSUES, AND HE SAW LITTLE HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT. HE SAID HE IS STILL AWAITING FULL REPORT FROM HIS DELEGATION, BUT THAT THE RESTRICTIONS ON THE VISITS THUS FAR AS SO EXTREME AS TO MAKE THEM UNACCEPTABLE IN HIS JUDGMENT.

5. COMMENT: WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING IF EMBASSY HAS INFO WHICH WOULD SHED ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THIS SITUATION.ABRAMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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